

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 05045 01 OF 02 231009Z

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FM AMENBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1068

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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RSS - FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DIKEOS

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: SECURITY REORGANIZATION AT EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

REF: STATE 194402 AND KUALA LUMPUR 4766

1. THE ODDS OF A REVISIT BY THE JAPANESE RED ARMY TO THE EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR MUST BE LEFT TO INDIVIDUAL CONJECTURE. HOWEVER, SECURITY VULNERABILITY OF THE EMBASSY, THE EASE OF THE OPERATION AND THE SUCCESS OF THE OUTCOME WILL ENCOURAGE THE JAPANESE RED ARMY OR SOME OTHER TERRORIST DISSIDENT GROUP TO RE-RUN THE SCENE EITHER IN KUALA LUMPUR OR AT SOME OTHER AMERICAN LOCATION AT A FUTURE DAZE.

2. THE EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR WITH THE ADVICE OF THE OFFICE OF SECURITY MUST NOW DETERMINE THE QUALITY AND THE EXPENSE OF THE REORGANIZATION OF THE SECURITY DEFENSES WHICH SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FUTURE RISK. AN ASSESSMENT OF THE FUTURE RISK CAN BE MADE ONLY AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION PAST TERRORIST EXPERIENCES OF THE EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR AND AN ESTIMATE OF THE POLITICAL STABILITY WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SECURITY DURING THE FORTHCOMING FOUR OR FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

3. A SUCCINCT BUT NOT AN ALL-INCLUSIVE REVIEW OF THE PAST TERROR-

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PAGE 02 KUALA 05045 01 OF 02 231009Z

IST INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE CLOSELY AFFECTED THE SECURITY OF THIS

EMBASSY INCLUDE MAY 1972 ANTI-VIETNAM DEMONSTRATION WHICH PROVIDED THE OCCASION FOR SOME THIRTY MILITANT DEMONSTRATORS WHO PENETRATED THE 12TH FLOOR OF THE EMBASSY AND CREATED A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS CONFRONTATION WITH THE MARINE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN CHARGE AND FOUR EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO WERE CALLED TO HIS ASSISTANCE. IN OCTOBER 1973 DURING SEVEN SUCCESSIVE DAYS OF INCREASINGLY HOSTILE PRO-ARAB ANTI-ISRAELI DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE SITE OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, FOUR OR FIVE DEMONSTRATORS AGAIN PENETRATED THE 11TH FLOOR OF THE EMBASSY AND HAD TO BE FORCEFULLY EVICTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN CHARGE. IT WAS DURING THIS SAME PERIOD OF TENSION THAT AN EXPLOSIVE WAS PLACED AT THE USIS LINCOLN CENTER CAUSING A BLAST WHICH CAUSED SEVERE BUILDING DAMAGE AND PERSONAL INJURY TO NINE MALAYSIAN NATIONALS IN THE VICINITY.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE INCIDENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE, THERE IS A PLO OFFICE LOCATED IN KUALA LUMPUR WHICH HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS MILITANCY BY BEING THE POINT OF ORIGIN OF LETTER BOMBS FROM MALAYSIA DIRECTED TO ISRAELIS IN A NUMBER OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES. WHERE PLO ACTIVITY APPEARS TO BE QUIESCENT AT THIS POINT OF ISRAELI-ARAB PEACE NEGOTIATIONS THEY OBVIOUSLY WOULD RENEW THEIR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES SHOULD THE MID-EAST SITUATION DETERIORATE. MEANWHILE, THE AFFINITY OF THE PLO AND THE OPERATIONS OF JAPANESE RED ARMY IS A MATTER OF RECORD.

5. IN ANY DISCUSSION OF TERRORISM RELATING TO THE MALAYSIAN SCENE THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE COMMENTS ON THE URBAN INSURGENCY WHICH IN THE RECENT PAST HAS ACCOUNTED FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF AT LEAST FOUR POLICE OFFICERS NOT INCLUDING THE SPECTACULAR MURDER

OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE SOME THIRTEEN MONTHS AGO ON THE STREETS OF KUALA LUMPUR WITHIN A THREE-BLOCK VICINITY OF THE EMBASSY.

6. AGAINST THIS TERRORIST EXPERIENCE THE RSS HAS APPROACHED A CROSS-SECTION OF THE POLITICAL OFFICERS AT THE EMBASSY TO SOLICIT THEIR PREVIEW OF POLITICAL STABILITY IN MALAYSIA DURING THE NEXT FOUR TO FIVE YEARS. NATURALLY, SUCH AN ASSESSMENT IS CLOUDED BY IMPONDERABLES WHICH EVENTUALLY COULD INTRODUCE UNPREDICTABLE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS. WHILE THERE ARE SOME DIVERGENT ESTIMATES VOICED BY EACH OF THE INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS, THE CONSENSUS OF OPINION WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUALA 05045 01 OF 02 231009Z

THAT THERE ARE LONG-STANDING TENSIONS PRESENT IN THE POLITICAL SCENE AND THAT THESE TENSIONS WILL PROBABLY BE ACCENTUATED IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE CAUSING VARYING DEGREES OF UNREST AND DISSENTION. THE INTENSITY OF THE INSTABILITY IN PART WILL BE CONTINGENT ON ECONOMIC FACTORS, CONTAINMENT OF THE PRESENT RURAL AND URBAN INSURGENCY, A SOLUTION OF THE SOCIAL INEQUITIES AMONG THE MALAYSIANS AS WELL AS A REDUCTION OF THE DISCRIMINATION DIRECTED AGAINST THE ETHNIC CHINESE. FINALLY, PERHAPS THE VALIDITY OF THE

OLD "DOMINO THEORY" WILL BE TESTED IN THE POST-VIETNAM ERA. IF THAILAND IS RACKED BY SERIOUS INSURGENCY AND FALLS UNDER WIDE-SPREAD REVOLUTIONARY CONTROL, THIS COULD HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE CONTINUED POLITICAL STABILITY OF MALAYSIA. OF COURSE THERE ARE OTHER ISOLATED INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED WARFARE IN MID-EAST THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE RADICAL GROUPS OF PRO-ARAB MALAYSIANS TO INITIATE TERRORISTS FORAYS AGAINST THE AMERICAN INSTALLATION.

7. BEFORE LEAVING THIS BACKGROUND, ATTENTION SHOULD BE DRAWN TO A RECENT SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ALL TYPES OF CRIME IN THE URBAN AREA OF KUALA LUMPUR. THERE IS A SURPRISING AMOUNT OF

VIOLENCE HERE AND, IN PARTICULAR, CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY ARE CAUSING CONCERN AMONG THE AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN THE EMBASSY. THE DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY FACED WITH THE DECISION ON SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES AT THE HOMES OF THE AMERICAN STAFF. IN ADDITION TO THE CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY THERE ARE DAILY BRUTAL REMINDERS THAT THERE IS LITTLE VALUE PLACED ON HUMAN LIFE AND LIMB IN MALAYSIAN SOCIETY. OCCASIONALLY FRUSTRATED ROBBERIES AND BURGLARIES RESULT IN BRUTAL MURDERS OR MAIMING OF VICTIMS.

8. BASED UPON THESE PAST EXPERIENCES AND ESTIMATES OF FUTURE STABILITY, THE REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR CONCURS WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE EMBASSY'S PROPOSALS TO INCREASE THE SECURITY AS OUTLINED IN REFTEL KL 4766 TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE THE CONCURRENCE OF THE RSS:

A. A LOCATION OF A SINGLE ENTRY POINT INTO THE EMBASSY TO THE 10TH FLOOR LEVEL WHICH WILL PROVIDE AN AREA FOR SECURITY CONTROL AND SCREENING FOR ALL VISITORS ENTERING THE EMBASSY. THIS COMPLEX VISUALIZES A HOLDING AREA WHERE PERSONS COULD BE HELD PENDING THE ARRIVAL OF AN AMERICAN ESCORT. THIS AREA WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A PLACE TO EXAMINE BRIEF CASES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 KUALA 05045 01 OF 02 231009Z

BAGS BROUGHT INTO THE EMBASSY AS THE OCCASION REQUIRED. SEE ITEMS A, B AND D IN REFTEL KL 4766 CITED SUPRA.

- 1) THE RSS RECOMMENDS THAT THE PROPOSED CONTROL AND SCREENING POINT BE ENLARGED AND CONFIGURED TO ACCOMMODATE

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PAGE 01 KUALA 05045 02 OF 02 230600Z

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ACTION SY-05

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 5045

A MODEST OFFICE AREA CONTIGUOUS TO THE MARINE DUTY DESK WITH THE INTENTION THAT THIS OFFICE BE OCCUPIED DURING MOST OF THE BUSINESS HOURS BY THE MARINE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN CHARGE WHO WILL FREQUENTLY BE AVAILABLE TO SUPPLY BACKUP SUPPORT TO THE MARINE ON DUTY.

2) LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE SCREENING AND CONTROL POINT ON THE 10TH FLOOR WOULD BE AN OFFICE AREA RE-SERVED FOR THE RSO AND HIS SECRETARY WHICH WILL SITUATE HIM IN AN ADVANTAGEOUS LOCATION TO SUPERVISE THE SCREENING AND CONTROL OPERATION.

3) ITEMS 1 AND 2 ABOVE AMEND SECTION E OF REFTEL KL 4766 TO THE DEPARTMENT. DIAGRAMS DISPLAYING THESE PROPOSALS AND THE AMENDMENTS ARE BEING POUCHED BY THE RSO ON THIS DATE.

B. THE RSS AGREES THAT THE CONSULAR SECTION SHOULD BE RE-LOCATED FROM THE PRESENT VULNERABLE 9TH FLOOR AREA TO THE 10TH FLOOR IN SPACE PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY USIS PHOTO LABORATORY AND WIRELESS MONITOR SECTION. THIS CHANGE LOCATES THE CONSULAR SECTION WITHIN THE AREA WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED SECURITY COVERAGE BY THE SCREENING AND CONTROL POINT ESTABLISHED ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF THE EMBASSY. THE USIS OPERATION WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED A LOW PRIORITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 KUALA 05045 02 OF 02 230600Z

TERRORIST TARGET WILL OCCUPY THE PRESENT CONSULAR SPACE AND WILL BE PROTECTED BY PHYSICAL DETERRENTS AND ITS NON-ACCESSIBILITY BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC. ITEM C OF REFTEL KL 4766.

C. AFTER A REVIEW OF THE SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS SET FORTH IN REFTEL KL 4766 (CITED ABOVE) IT IS APPARENT THAT THE LOCAL RECEPTIONIST IS ALREADY OVERTAXED BY THE COLLATERAL DUTIES OF SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR AND RECEPTIONIST. THE RSS JOINS WITH THE EMBASSY IN THE RECOMMENDATION TO DIVIDE THESE RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN TWO EMPLOYEES.

D. TO ESTABLISH THIS CENTRAL CONTROL POINT, EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO DESIGN AN AREA WHICH WILL BE AESTHETICALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE EMBASSY. ARCHITECTURAL SKETCHES WHICH APPEAR TO INCORPORATE NECESSARY SECURITY FEATURES ALONG WITH AN ACCEPTABLE APPEARANCE ARE BEING POUCHED BY THE RSO ON AN IMMEDIATE BASIS TO SY WASHINGTON. INCLUDED IN THESE DRAWINGS ARE SOME OF THE INITIAL DESIGNS AND CONFIGURATIONS FOR THE RECEPTION AND SCREENING COMPLEX. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MODIFICATIONS INCORPORATED WHICH ALTHOUGH NON-PROFESSIONALLY INSERTED ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE POUCHED MATERIAL. SEE 8A 1-2 OF THIS MESSAGE.

9. THE EMBASSY'S PREVIOUS REQUEST FOR \$14,909 REPRESENTS FUNDS WHICH ARE ALREADY EXPENDED BY THE POST IN HANDLING THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DURING THE JRA OCCUPANCY AND THE CLEANING UP PROCESS AFTER THE CRISIS. THE RSS HAS NO BASIS FOR A COMMENT FOR THIS REQUEST NOR THE VALIDITY OF THE AMOUNTS INVOLVED EXCEPT TO NOTE THEY ARE NOT RELATED TO THE SECURITY MODIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED EITHER IN THIS MESSAGE OR REFTEL KL 4766.

10. THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS BY THE RSS AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER ON THE CONSIDERABLE EXPENSES WHICH MUST BE INCURRED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSALS TO CREATE THE SCREENING AND CONTROL POINT PROPOSED IN THESE TELEGRAMS. WHILE THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THE LOCATION, FUNCTION AND CONFIGURATION OF THE SCREENING AND CONTROL CENTER THERE IS A DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON THE SHARING OF ADDITIONAL EXPENSES ALLEGEDLY REQUIRED TO REFURBISH AND RENOVATE THE USIS OFFICES ON THE 10TH FLOOR. IT IS THE RSS POSITION THAT THE REFURBISHING AND RENOVATION OF THE USIS SPACE IS INCIDENTAL TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUALA 05045 02 OF 02 230600Z

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONTROL POINT. ON THIS QUESTION THE REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR RESERVES HIS OPINION AND DEFERS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND THE REGIONAL BUREAU.

11. THE REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR DURING THIS PERIOD IN KUALA LUMPUR HAS DISCUSSED WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL ASSURANCE CO. LTD. THE POSSIBILITY OF THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT RELINQUISHING TO THE EMBASSY THE SOLE CONTROL OF ONE OF THE THREE ELEVATORS ALL OF WHICH PRESENTLY SERVICE THE FIFTEEN-FLOOR LEVELS OF THE BUILDING COMPLEX. PREVIOUS APPROACHES ON THIS SUBJECT HAVE MET WITH NON-

NEGOTIABLE NEGATIVE RESPONSES FROM THE BUILDING REPRESENTATIVE. ON THIS OCCASION THE REPRESENTATIVE OBVIOUSLY DISCONCERTED BY THE JRA INCIDENT WAS INDECISIVE AND ADMITTED THE DECISION WOULD REQUIRE FINAL APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL FROM THE TOP SUPERVISORY LEVELS OF THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL ASSURANCE CO. LTD. THE REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT "HIGHER LEVELS" IN FACT MEANS THAT THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE WILL CONSULT ON THE QUESTION WITH HIS SUPERVISORS IN HONG KONG AND/OR NEW YORK. THIS DECISION WILL PROBABLY BE DELAYED FOR MONTHS AND MAY STILL BE NEGATIVE. A THOROUGH REVIEW OF ALL THE ATTENDANT CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS THE POOR MECHANICAL CONDITION OF THE ELEVATOR, THE MULTI-LEVEL ENTRANCES TO THE BUILDING, THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RECEPTION PERSONNEL, WILL PROBABLY LEAD THE EMBASSY AND THE SECURITY OFFICE TO REJECT THE CONCEPT OF SOLE CONTROL OF A SINGLE ELEVATOR SHAFT IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE BUILDING OWNERS WOULD CONSENT TO THE REQUEST.

12. THE RSO AND RSS HAVE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF RETAINING LOCAL GUARD SERVICES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE STAFF RESIDENCES. RSO ALGIRE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE SY WASHINGTON WITH THE FULL SURVEY OF THE PROTECTIVE MEASURES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED, THE STEPS THAT COULD BE TAKEN SHORT OF THE EXPENSIVE GUARD SERVICE OPTION AND FINALLY HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE ABILITY OF THE LOCAL POLICE AGENCIES TO PROVIDE A HIGHER DEGREE OF PROTECTION TO THESE RESIDENCES. SY SHOULD RECEIVE SUCH A COMPLETED SURVEY WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE DAYS.

13. APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE REVIEWED THE CONTENT OF THIS MESSAGE AND CONCUR IN THE SECURITY CONCEPTS. THE REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT THERE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 KUALA 05045 02 OF 02 230600Z

EVERY EXPECTATION THAT THE ACKNOWLEDGED INCONVENIENCES BUILT INTO THE SECURITY PROPOSALS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE EMBASSY PERSONNEL.
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